

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-3049
on its own motion, to conduct an)
investigation into possible) ORDER IMPLEMENTING
solutions for extending the life) MANDATORY THOUSANDS BLOCK
of area codes 308 and 402.) NUMBER POOLING IN CERTAIN
) RATE CENTERS OF THE 402
) AREA CODE AND SETTING A
) HEARING
)
) Entered: March 14, 2006

BY THE COMMISSION:

On November 13, 2003, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened Application C-3049 "to investigate further the potential use of thousands-block number pooling outside of the top 100 MSAs and rate center consolidation to return valuable number resources to the pool and further extend the life of both 402 and 308 area codes."

The March 30, 2004 order, seeking comments and setting a hearing, indicated "It is the stated goal of the Commission to implement thousands-block number pooling and further rate center consolidation in an effort to extend the life of the 308 and 402 area codes in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible."

Qwest, Alltel and Frontier Communications each agreed to cooperate with the Commission in its effort to conserve numbering resources. Their willingness to participate in voluntary number pooling has been essential in extending the forecasted exhaust date for the 402 area code. However, numbering resources in the 402 area code remain scarce.

On November 23, 2004, the Commission petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for Authority to Implement Additional Number Conservation Measures.

On February 24, 2006, the FCC released *Numbering Resource Optimization*, Order and Fifth Notice of Proposed Rule Making, CC Docket No. 99-200 (2006) granting the Commission "the authority to implement mandatory thousands-block pooling in the 402 NPA".

The 402 area code consists of 283 rate centers of which 249 are currently marked as voluntary pooling and 34 are marked as mandatory pooling due to their inclusion in the Omaha MSA.

Of the 179 rate centers in which Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest are the incumbent local exchange carriers, 24 of the rate

centers are already marked as mandatory pooling by the Pooling Administrator due to their inclusion in the Omaha MSA and the remaining 155 are designated as optional pooling. Since Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest are participating in voluntary pooling, each carrier has been reporting their numbering resource utilization at the thousands-block level. These three carriers have also contributed to thousands-block pools in their respective rate centers thereby meeting the numbering resource needs of other carriers in these pooling rate centers. A listing of the 155 rate centers in the 402 area code served by Alltel, Qwest, and Frontier is attached hereto as Appendix A.

Of the remaining 104 rate centers in the 402 area code 10 are marked as mandatory due to their inclusion in the Omaha MSA and 94 are designated as voluntary pooling. A listing of these 94 rate centers is attached hereto as Appendix B. These rate centers are served by the carriers listed in Appendix C.

Changing the classification of the 155 rate centers served by Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest from optional pooling to mandatory pooling is the first step we believe should be taken under the authority granted by the FCC, thereby further extending the life of the 402 area code. Such action will prevent new carriers entering these rate centers from inadvertently obtaining resources at the full code level of 10,000 numbers. New carriers will instead receive numbering resources at the thousands-block level.

Because Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest have been reporting their numbering resource utilization at the thousands-block level in the affected rate centers, and have been participating in voluntary thousands-block pooling, the impact of changing the pooling classification from optional to mandatory on all carriers seeking resources in the designated 402 area code rate centers is believed to be minimal.

However, more information is needed to determine the proper timeline and procedure for implementation of mandatory pooling in the remaining rate centers in the 402 area code listed in Appendix B. Commission staff is directed to contact the NeuStar Pooling Administrator and other industry entities to determine the necessary steps and process for implementing mandatory pooling in the remaining rate centers in the 402 area code listed in Appendix B

Therefore, the Commission finds those rate centers within the 402 area code currently served by Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest as outlined in Appendix A should be designated as mandatory thousands-block pooling. Commission staff is directed

to take all steps required by the Neustar Pooling Administrator to implement this change.

Furthermore, carriers with numbering resources in these areas should review their current numbering resource inventory and donate all eligible thousands-blocks in accordance with the Industry Numbering Committee Thousands-Block Number (NXX-X) Pooling Administration Guidelines (ATIS-0300066).

Finally, the Commission finds that a hearing should be held in order to establish a timeline and procedure for the implementation of mandatory thousands-block pooling in the remaining rate centers in the 402 area code. Said hearing should be scheduled for **May 16, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 1200 N Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Carriers and interested parties should file direct testimony no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2006. Each person filing direct testimony shall submit one original and eight (8) copies.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that those rate centers in the 402 area code currently served by Alltel, Frontier, and Qwest as outlined in Appendix A be designated mandatory thousands-block pooling.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all non-paging carriers with numbering resources in the 402 area code rate centers listed in Appendix A shall review their current numbering resource inventory and donate all eligible thousands-blocks in accordance with the Industry Numbering Committee Thousands-Block Number (NXX-X) Pooling Administration Guidelines (ATIS-0300066) within 45 days of the effective date of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing be held on May 16, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 1200 N Street, Suite 300, Lincoln, Nebraska, to establish the procedure and timeline for the implementation of mandatory thousands-block pooling in the remaining rate centers in the 402 area code listed in Appendix B.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that Carriers and interested parties shall file direct testimony no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2006. Each person filing direct testimony shall submit one original and eight (8) copies.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 14th day of
March, 2006.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

C-3049 Appendix A
402 Area Code Rate Centers Served by Alltel, Frontier, Qwest

Rate Center Full Name
ADAMS
AINSWORTH
ALBION
ALEXANDRIA
ATKINSON
AUBURN
BARNESTON
BATTLE CREEK
BEATRICE
BEAVER CROSSING
BELLWOOD
BENEDICT
BENNET
BRADSHAW
BRAINARD
BROCK
BROWNVILLE
BRUNING
BRUNO
BRUNSWICK
BURCHARD
BURR
CARLETON
CLARKSON
CLATONIA
CLAY CENTER
COLUMBUS
COOK
CORDOVA
CORTLAND
CRAB ORCHARD
CRESTON
CRETE
DAVENPORT
DAVEY
DAVID CITY
DAWSON
DAYKIN
DE WITT
DENTON
DEWEESE
DORCHESTER
DOUGLAS
DUBOIS
DUNBAR
DUNCAN
DWIGHT
EDGAR
ELK CREEK
EMERSON
EXETER
FAIRBURY
FAIRFIELD
FAIRMONT

Rate Center Full Name
FILLEY
FIRTH
FRIEND
GARLAND
GENEVA
GENOA
GLENVIL
GRAFTON
GRESHAM
GUIDE ROCK
HALLAM
HANSEN
HARDY
HARVARD
HASTINGS
HEBRON
HICKMAN
HOMER
HOWELLS
HUMBOLDT
HUMPHREY
JANSEN
JOHNSON
JULIAN
JUNIATA
KENESAW
LAUREL
LEIGH
LIBERTY
LINCOLN
LINDSAY
MADISON
MALCOLM
MARTELL
MCCOOL JUNCTION
MILFORD
MILLIGAN
MONROE
NEBRASKA CITY
NELIGH
NELSON
NEMAHA
NEWMAN GROVE
NORFOLK
O NEILL
OAKLAND
OCTAVIA
OHIOWA
ONG
ORCHARD
OSCEOLA
OTOE
PALMYRA
PANAMA

Rate Center Full Name
PAWNEE CITY
PENDER
PERU
PICKRELL
PILGER
PLATTE CENTER
PLEASANT DALE
PLYMOUTH
POLK
RANDOLPH
RAYMOND
RISING CITY
RUSKIN
SCHUYLER
SEWARD
SHELBY
SHICKLEY
SOUTH SIOUX CITY
STEELE CITY
STEINAUER
STERLING
STROMSBURG
SUPERIOR
SURPRISE
SUTTON
SWANTON
SYRACUSE
TABLE ROCK
TALMAGE
TAMORA
TECUMSEH
TEKAMAH
TILDEN
TOBIAS
UNADILLA
UTICA
VALENTINE
WEST HAMBURG
WACO
WAKEFIELD
WAVERLY
WAYNE
WEST POINT
WESTERN
WILBER
WYMORE
YORK

C-3049 Appendix B
402 Area Code Rate Centers not served by Alltel, Frontier, Qwest

Rate Center Full Name
ALLEN
AURORA
BANCROFT
BASSETT
BEEMER
BELDEN
BLOOMFIELD
BLUE HILL
BRISTOW
BUTTE
BYRON
CARROLL
CENTER
CHAMBERS
CHESTER
CLEARWATER
CODY
COLERIDGE
CREIGHTON
CROFTON
CROOKSTON
DECATUR
DESHLER
DILLER
DIXON
DODGE
DONIPHAN
ELGIN
EWING
FALLS CITY
GILTNER
HAMPTON
HARBINE
HARTINGTON
HENDERSON
HORDVILLE
HOSKINS
INMAN
JACKSON
JOHNSTOWN
KILGORE
LONG PINE
LYNCH
MACY
MARQUETTE
MEADOW GROVE
NAPER
NEWCASTLE
NEWPORT
NIOBRARA
NORTH MAHASKA
NORTH BEND
NORTH SUMMERFIELD
OAKDALE

Rate Center Full Name
ODELL
OSMOND
PAGE
PETERSBURG
PHILLIPS
PIERCE
PLAINVIEW
PONCA
RED CLOUD
ROSALIE
SCRIBNER
SNYDER
SOUTH GREGORY
SOUTH YANKTON
SOUTH BONESTEEL
SOUTH BURKE
SPENCER
SPRINGVIEW
ST EDWARD
STANTON
STAPLEHURST
STOCKHAM
STUART
TRI CITY
TRUMBULL
UEHLING
ULYSSES
VERDEL
VERDIGRE
VIRGINIA
WALNUT
WALTHILL
WATERBURY
WAUSA
WINNEBAGO
WINNETOON
WINSIDE
WISNER
WOOD LAKE
WYNOT FORDYCE ST HELENA

C-3049 Appendix C
Other 402 Area Code Rate Center Incumbent Carriers

BLUE VALLEY TELE-COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
CLARKS TELEPHONE CO
DILLER TELEPHONE CO
GLENWOOD TELEPHONE
GREAT PLAINS
HAMILTON COUNTY
HARTINGTON TELEPHONE CO
HENDERSON TELEPHONE
HOOPER TELEPHONE CO
HUNTEL SYSTEMS
J.B.N. TELEPHONE CO., INC
K&M TELEPHONE CO
NORTHEAST NEBRASKA TELEPHONE CO
PIERCE TELEPHONE CO
PLAINVIEW TELEPHONE
SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA TELEPHONE CO
STANTON TELEPHONE CO
THREE RIVER TELCO
VIVIAN TELEPHONE CO.